

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for measuring an amount of a preselected analyte in a sample of a bodily fluid comprising:
 - (a) forming an immunocomplex between said analyte and an antibody thereto;
 - (b) reacting said immunocomplex with a white blood cell or extract thereof; and
 - (c) measuring an amount of oxidant produced by said white blood cell wherein the amount of oxidant produced is proportional to the amount of ~~as an indicator of~~ the analyte in said sample .
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sample is a bodily fluid.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said bodily fluid is whole blood.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said white blood cell is present in the sample of bodily fluid.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein an activator is included in step (b).
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said activator is selected from the group consisting of zymosan, latex particles, phorbol ester, N-formyl-met-leu-phe, opsonized zymosan, opsonized latex particles, complement and any combination thereof.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said analyte concentration is elevated during infection or sepsis.

8. (currently amended) A method for measuring an amount of a preselected analyte in a sample comprising:

- a) forming an immunocomplex between said preselected analyte and an antibody
- b) reacting said immunocomplex with a white blood cell in the presence of an activator; and
- c) measuring an amount of oxidant produced as compared with that produced by a maximal amount of immunocomplexes between a second analyte and an antibody thereto in the presence of said activator as an indicator of said preselected analyte in said sample wherein the amount of oxidant produced is proportional to the amount of analyte present in the sample.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said sample is a bodily fluid.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said white blood cell is present in the sample of bodily fluid.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said bodily fluid is whole blood.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said activator is selected from the group consisting of zymosan, latex particles, phorbol ester, N-formyl-met-leu-phe, opsonized zymosan, opsonized latex particles, complement and any combination thereof.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said preselected analyte concentration is elevated during infection or sepsis.

14. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said second analyte is the same as the preselected analyte.

15. (currently amended) A method for detecting in a sample of a bodily fluid a preselected analyte wherein the concentration of said preselected analyte is elevated during infection or sepsis which comprises:

- a) forming an immunocomplex between said analyte and an antibody thereto;
- b) reacting said immunocomplex with a white blood cell in the presence of an activator; and
- c) measuring the amount of oxidant produced as compared with that produced by a maximal amount of immunocomplexes between a second analyte and an antibody thereto in the presence of said activator as an indicator of said preselected analyte in said sample of said bodily fluid wherein the amount of oxidant produced is proportional to the amount of analyte present in the sample.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said bodily fluid is whole blood.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said white blood cell is present in the sample of bodily fluid.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said activator is selected from the group consisting of zymosan, latex particles, porbol ester, N-formyl-met-leu-phe, opsonized zymosan, opsonized latex particles, complement and any combination thereof.

19. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said preselected analyte is selected from the group consisting of Gram-positive bacteria, Gram-negative bacteria, a fungus, a virus, a protist, a Gram-positive cell wall constituent, Gram-negative endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide), lipid A, and an inflammatory mediator.

20. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said second analyte is the same as the preselected analyte.